



NEWS RELEASE

NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505-0240

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 29, 2006

CONTACT:
Lieutenant Kelly Rodgers, NDHP
328-2455

HIGHWAY PATROL WILL UTILIZE OVERTIME TO MAXIMIZE EFFORTS

The North Dakota Highway Patrol will utilize overtime hours to maximize its enforcement efforts throughout the remainder of 2006. The overtime hours will be used to supplement regular hours in an effort to impact traffic fatalities. The overtime funds will come from vacancies that currently exist within the Patrol's force.

"Traditionally traffic fatalities increase during the fall months, and we are going to maximize the visibility of our troopers for the remainder of the year," said Superintendent Bryan Klipfel. Last year North Dakota recorded 123 traffic fatalities, and thus far in 2006, 77 fatalities have occurred, 10 fewer than at the same time last year.

Alcohol involvement and the failure to wear safety restraints are critical factors in the fatality picture. Thus far in 2006, 45% of traffic fatalities have been alcohol related and 64% of the fatality victims were not wearing safety restraints. "We will concentrate our efforts towards the impaired and unrestrained drivers because we know that is the area that will have the greatest impact," said Klipfel. Approximately \$75,000 in overtime funds will be utilized in the effort.

-###-